

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 MAPUTO 00281 211714Z  
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
-----211716Z 026365 /44

O 211530Z MAR 77  
FM AMEMBASSY MAPUTO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5597  
INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY GABORONE IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T MAPUTO 0281

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR, MZ, CG, US  
SUBJECT: POSSIBLE MACHEL ROLE IN EASING ZAIRE SITUATION?

REF: (A) STATE 061927; (B) STATE 058185; (C) DAR 1082  
(D) MAPUTO 246; (E) MAPUTO 203

1. SUMMARY: IT MY JUDGMENT THAT IF MACHEL INVOLVES HIMSELF IN ZAIRE SITUATION, HIS INFLUENCE IS LIKELY BE NEGATIVE INsofar AS USG INTERESTS ARE CONCERNED. I THEREFORE RECOMMEND THAT WE NOT SEEK TO INVOLVE HIM. ON OTHER HAND, I BELIEVE IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO PROVIDE HIM WITH OUR ASSESSMENT OF THE SITUATION AND TO SHARE WITH HIM OUR CONCERNS, BELIEVE THIS CAN BEST BE DONE IN FORM MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT CARTER TO MACHEL. SUCH OCCASIONAL MESSAGES MAY MAKE IT EASIER FOR US TO ENGAGE MACHEL IN FUTRE DIALOGUE ON ZIMBABWE, WHEN HIS PARTICIPATION COULD BE OF CRUCIAL IMPORTANCE.

END SUMMARY

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2. MACHEL'S VIEWS ON ZAIRE. AS REPORTED REFTTEL D, MACHEL IS A CLOSE PERSONAL FRIEND OF NETO, CONSIDERS MOBUTO TO BE AN INSTRUMENT OF THE WEST, AND IS IDEOLOGICALLY PREDISPOSED TO SUSPECT ZAIRIAN AND USG ACTIONS IN AFRICA. HE IS ALSO WILLING TO RUN RISKS WHEN HE THINKS THEY WILL PROMOTE "REVOLUTIONARY" ENDS TO WHICH HE COMMITTED. EVEN WERE HE TO SHARE OUR CONCERNS ABOUT POSSIBLE CON-

SEQUENCES OF FIGHTING IN SHABA (REFTEL B), HE IS UN-  
LIKELY TO TAKE ANY ACTION THAT WOULD BE CONTRARY TO  
INTEREST OR WISHES OF NETO.

3. INFORMATION SHORTCOMINGS. MACHEL'S INFORMATION OF  
WHAT IS HAPPENING IN ZAIRE IS NO DOUBT DISTORTED, BEING  
BASED PRIMARILY ON WHAT HIS RADICAL INFORMATION MINISTRY  
OFFICIALS OR NETO ARE TELLING HIM. IN ALL PROBABILITY  
NYERERE (AND PERHAPS KAUNDA) ARE KEEPING MACHEL INFORMED  
OF WHAT WE ARE TELLING THEM ABOUT EVENTS IN ZAIRE, BUT  
MACHEL IS SENSITIVE TO HIS OWN IMPORTANCE, AND, WHEN  
WE CAN, I BELIEVE WE SHOULD ENGAGE IN DIRECT COMMUNI-  
CATION WITH HIM.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS. I RECOMMEND THAT WE NOT INVOLVE  
MACHEL IN ANY DIPLOMATIC INITIATIVE WE MAY SEEK TO DEVELOP  
BUT THAT WE SHARE WITH HIM OUR ASSESSMENT OF THE SITUATION.  
AT A MINIMUM TELLING HIM WHAT ASSISTANCE WE ARE PROVIDING MOBUTO  
AND WHY. I BELIEVE THE MOST EFFECTIVE WAY OF CONVEYING  
THIS INFORMATION WOULD BE IN FORM OF MESSAGE FROM  
PRESIDENT CARTER TO MACHEL. SHABA DEVELOPMENTS  
APPEAR TO BE GOOD OPPORTUNITY TO PROBE WHETHER MACHEL  
IS IN FACT SERIOUS ABOUT ENTERING INTO A DIALOGUE  
WITH US ON MAJOR AFRICAN DEVELOPMENTS, AS SUGGESTED  
REFTEL E. PERIODIC MESSAGES TO MACHEL MAY MAKE IT  
EASIER FOR US TO ENGAGE HIM IN MORE EXTENSIVE EXCHANGE  
OF VIEWS IF AND WHEN WE DECIDE TO HAVE ANOTHER TRY AT  
ACHIEVING A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT IN ZIMBABWE.

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5. IF THERE ARE TALKING POINTS THE DEPARTMENT WOULD  
LIKE ME TO MAKE ORALLY, I WILL SEEK AN APPOINTMENT  
WITH THE PRESIDENT. IN THE PAST, MACHEL HAS BEEN  
WILLING TO SEE ME WHEN I HAD MESSAGE FROM THE PRESI-  
DENT TO DELIVER. HOWEVER, I SHOULD NOTE THAT MACHEL  
WILL BE BUSY THE NEXT TWO WEEKS WITH VISTS OF PODGORNYY  
AND (PROBABLY) CASTRO, AND I MAY HAVE DIFFICULTIES  
GETTING IN TO SEE HIM.  
DE PREE

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 21-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Office:** ACTION SS  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Reference:** 77 STATE 61927, 77 STATE 58185, 77 DAR ES SALAAM 1082, 77 MAPUTO 246, 77 MAPUTO 203  
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**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
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**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** POSSIBLE MACHEL ROLE IN EASING ZAIRE SITUATION?  
**TAGS:** PFOR, MOPS, PPDC, MZ, CG, US, (CARTER, JIMMY), (MACHEL, SAMORA)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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